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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6303**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1644

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 18, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Community Corrections Employees and Firearms.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Goodin

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill allows an employee of a community corrections program to carry a firearm or handgun while acting as an employee of a community corrections program if the employee: (1) may legally carry a handgun or firearm; and (2) has successfully completed a certified handgun safety course.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** This bill could minimally affect both local law enforcement agencies and firearms training expenditures for the community corrections agencies. Currently, community corrections programs are located in 68 of Indiana's 92 counties. Reportedly, some community corrections officers already carry weapons as part of their work duties. More information will be provided when available from the Department of Correction.

**Local Law Enforcement Agencies** – Community corrections employees visit the homes and work sites of offenders who are committed to the community corrections program in their county. These officers may carry firearms for personal protection or because they have arrest powers (through the Sheriff's Department) in case they find contraband or observe illegal activity in the course of their field contacts. When the community corrections officers do not carry firearms or do not have arrest powers, they are often accompanied by a local law enforcement officer from either the office of the county sheriff or the municipal police.

If a community corrections employee carries a firearm and has arrest powers, it is possible that either a deputy of the county sheriff's office or the a municipal police department will not have to accompany the employee in visits to the homes and work sites of offenders. Some savings could occur for the county's vehicular and mileage costs and by reassigning local law enforcement officers to other duties.

Firearms training expenditures would depend on whether current training programs already exist for probation officers. Under this bill, community corrections employees would need a license to carry a handgun or firearm and would need to successfully complete a handgun safety course certified by the Law Enforcement Training Board. Depending on current availability, some counties could incur additional firearms training costs for these employees.

Since some community corrections programs are part of the county probation program, it is possible that some community corrections employees are also probation officers and that firearms training programs exist. The Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana (POPAI) reported that 43 probation departments across the state (out of 144 departments responding to a survey in 2001) allow their officers to carry firearms as authorized by IC 11-13-1-3.5. For these departments, training programs may already be in place for probation officers and could be used by community corrections employees.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Community corrections agencies, Local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Deana McMurray, Department of Correction; Eric Zimmerman, Chief Probation Officer, Allen County.

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